

Dear Sen. Ripley, and members:

As per Sen. Ripley's request, this is the detailed version of the list I provided at last week's hearing on HB 418 the Horse Slaughter Bill. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

JANE HEATH

HELENA

MONTANA HORSE SANCTUARY

458-9722

**Humane Alternatives for  
Unwanted and In-Crisis Horses In Montana  
Compiled by the Montana Grassroots Horse Coalition**

***\*\*\* Please note: this list was compiled in March 2009 and is not a complete listing but rather reflects information we were able to gather within 5 days. For more information, contact Jane Heath in Helena 458-9722.***

**Nonprofit and Private Horse Sanctuaries:**

These sanctuaries take in unwanted and in-crisis horses. They have multiple programs as listed:

Montana Horse Sanctuary, Helena, Jane Heath, Executive Director

The Sanctuary shelters unwanted and in-crisis horses, provides them with rehabilitation and then places them in permanent, qualified homes. The Sanctuary also provides education to horse owners in the form of workshops, clinics and media outreach. The Sanctuary's community assistance programs include help with placing unwanted and in-crisis horses who don't come to the Sanctuary (placed 79 horses in 2008); hay (have provided hay to 72 horses since late 2007) and euthanasia grants to financially strapped horse owners; training for law enforcement in equine cruelty investigation; training for law enforcement and rescuers in custodial care (trained 55 law enforcement and rescue personell in 2008); and custodial care of horses confiscated by law enforcement as part of cruelty investigations. Expert mentoring to private rescuers and other nonprofits in horse care and rehabilitation of starved horses

Rolling Dog Ranch, Ovando, Steve Smith and Alayne Marker

Specialize in disabled animals, focus is on blind horses. Also horses with other disabilities and circumstances including wobblers and abuse neglect court cases. Provide horse owners and veterinarians with education about care of blind horses.

Montana Large Animal Sanctuary, Hot Springs

Dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and continued care of neglected, abused, needy horses and other large animals.

Bright Eyes Animal Sanctuary, Choteau, Terrie Nylund

Care for unwanted and in-crisis animals. Assist law enforcement with cruelty investigations for horses. In 2008, helped local law enforcement with investigation and prosecution of large horse abuse case and cared for the confiscated horses.

Horse Haven Montana, Huson, Janet Rose, Founder

Rescue and place horses that are adoptable into forever homes.

Deer Haven Sanctuary, Livingston, Michelle Feldstein, Director

Rescues and rehabilitates unwanted and in-crisis horses and other animals

United In Light Draft Horse Rescue, Livingston, Deborah Derr, Founder/Director

Rescue from slaughter draft horses, provide rehab and lifetime care.

Chris Christofferson's horse rescue, Seeley Lake

Rescues, rehabilitates and cares for unwanted and in-crisis horses.

Shannon Alexander's Horse Rescue, Corvallis

Rescue, rehab, care and placement of unwanted horses.

**Humane Organizations that provide direct services to animals as well as provide assistance to other nonprofit animal organizations:**

Humane Society of the United States Northern Rockies Regional Office, Billings, Dave Pauli, director

Provide assistance placing unwanted and in-crisis horses with sanctuaries or individual rescuers and adoptive homes. Provide funding and grants to nonprofit organizations for workshops, hay grants, etc. Provide expertise and information to rescuers as needed. Provide contraceptive darting of mares.

Montana Animal Care Association, Butte and Corvallis, Phyllis Ruana, director

Provide training and networking opportunities for animal care professionals; spay/neuter/geld assistance to reduce companion animal overpopulation and increased awareness of animal issues through education and fostering respect for all animals. Training for law enforcement in equine cruelty investigation and training for law enforcement and rescuers in equine custodial care. Annual educational conference.

## **Animal shelters that provide foster care and emergency assistance to horses:**

Lewis and Clark County Animal Shelter, Helena , Gina Weist, director

Most notable accomplishment in this category was the rescue and fostering of 25 confiscated horses owned by the Dykgreve's of Grizzly Gulch.

Rimrock Humane Society, Roundup, Sandy Church, director

In 2008 fostered then placed six confiscated horses

Bitterroot Humane Society, Hamilton, Vicki Dawson, director

Most recently conducted care and rehab of four horses owned by the Heydon's of Georgia, one of which was found nearly dead in the Bitterroot. Heydons were convicted of felony cruelty. In 2008, cared for 25 confiscated horses.

## **Individuals who reseue, rehabilitate, place, and foster unwanted horses:**

- Marilyn Taylor, Florence - specializes in Arabs
- Jen Heidmann, Three Forks - specializes in Thoroughbreds
- Erin Andersen, Bozeman - specializes in old horses
- Deborah Nickou, Browning - specializes in all breeds
- Kathy Luedtke, Stevensville - foster care and mustangs
- Lynne Keller, Helena - foster care
- Jeff and Virginia Hudson, Bitterroot - mustangs, horse transport for rescue
- Shannon Anderson, Bitterroot - Arabs
- Kim Marthens, Bitterroot - trains and rehabs then places
- Alice Tailfeathers, Browning - rescues horses and places in adoptive homes
- Dunrovin Ranch, Lolo - rescue, rehab and place
- Lisa Jacobson DVM, Clyde Park - rescues, rehab, placment
- Eva Melody, Hamilton - foster care
- Pat Hess, Bozeman - foster care, cruelty investigation, placement
- Linda Threlkeld, Bozeman - foster care, rehab.
- Jane Heath, Helena - aside from Mt. Horse Sanctuary, provides equine therapy to in-crisis horses as well as permanent home for unwanted horses.
- Claire Cabal, Bitterroot - foster and rehab
- Kim Dorman, Hamilton - foster care
- Sandy and Jim Bolinger, Bitterroot - foster care
- Malika Costens, Bitterroot - training and placement
- Donnica Johnson, Bitterroot - mustang rescue
- Janet Rolfs, Belgrade - finds sanctuary placement for unwanted horses
- Wendy Smith, Great Falls - foster care and placement
- Holly Eiden, Bozeman - foster care, rehab and placment

## **Groups and individuals who provide other services to unwanted and in-crisis horses:**

### WHO, Stevensville -

emergency hay rations, farrier service, vet bill assistance, education about care and feeding of horses.

### Laura Daley, Missoula -

emergency hay rations, vet care assistance and rescue

### Willing Servants, Hamilton, Theresa Manzella, director

Places unwanted horses in permanent homes, provides education to horse owners. Began in October 2008 and has already placed 20 horses. Also offers emergency hay rations and a Final Act of Kindness Euthanasia service.

### Montana Pets on the Net, Helena

Web site which posts horses ready for adoption and links to sanctuaries.

### The Indian Pony Girls, Billings, Abigail Hornik, director

Help sanctuaries with placement of horses in crisis situations. Helped Montana Horse Sanctuary and HSUS place 76 horses from the Browning area in late 2008 in 17 days.

### For the Love of Horses, Kalispell, Dawn Ivans

Equine education and placement/adoption

### 4-H Clubs of Montana

Education about horse care, training and behavior. Many 4-H clubs will help find homes for unwanted and in-crisis horses

### Pony Clubs of Montana

Education about horse care, training and behavior. Many pony clubs will find homes for unwanted and in-crisis horses.

### Clair Cabal and Kim Marthens, Bitterroot Valley -

Euthanasia assistance offered on a monthly basis, although if someone has a critical need in between, will definitely assist them.

### Montana Department of Livestock -

Equine cruelty investigation training

**Montana Therapeutic Riding Centers that take unwanted horses:**

Bitterroot Therapeutic Riding, Corvallis

Butte Special Riders, Whitehall

Eagle Mount--Bozeman

Eagle Mount--Great Falls

Eagle Mount, Helena

Faith Therapeutic Riding Service, Inc., Lolo

Shooting Star Ranch Therapeutic Riding Program, Darby

STAR Riding Program, Inc., Billings